

MY CAREER ATVA



actual VA employees

www.mycareeratva.va.gov/students



ADVANCE
TRANSFORMING POTENTIAL INTO PERFORMANCE

ADVANCE is an HR&A initiative to invest in people development, workforce engagement and talent management for the delivery of high-quality healthcare, benefits and other services to Veterans and their families.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Employees at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are making a positive difference in the lives of Veterans every day by providing them with the world-class benefits and services they have earned. These stories make clear that a VA career offers many rewards, challenges, and opportunities for advancement.

Start your career at VA and join these and thousands of individuals around the nation growing with VA and giving back to our nation's Veterans and their families.

A black and white portrait of Matt Deaton, a man with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

MATT DEATON

My Career at VA: Presidential Management Fellow

Focus Area: Matt, an Air Force Veteran, makes sure VA has the staffing and expertise necessary to serve a changing and growing Veteran population.

— A VETERAN SERVING VETERANS —

Matt's Story

As a workforce planner involved in high-level human resources management, I'm several degrees removed from our Veterans. But I know that when I do my job well, it has a real impact on the service our Veterans and their families receive. That's all the inspiration I need to give 100 percent. Few organizations have a more honorable mission than VA.

"The opportunity to pursue your interests while building your skill set and serving our nation's heroes is hard to beat."

A black and white portrait of Nicole Caruso, a woman with long, dark, wavy hair, smiling at the camera. She is wearing a light-colored top. The portrait is the background for the entire page.

NICOLE CARUSO

My Career at VA: Human Resources (HR) Specialist

Focus Area: Nicole develops and evaluates strategies to improve workforce engagement and development and transform VA into a 21st century organization.

— A CAREER IN MOTION —

Nicole's Story

I used to think I'd work at one place for a few years and move on, but VA has inspired me to grow my career here. I started as an intern and now I'm certified in Federal HR management. I'm acquiring additional skills in project management, information technology, and data analysis. There have been very cool moments, too—I was invited and trusted to speak on a panel of experts and tapped to give a briefing to senior leaders. I also get to balance work and life: On telework days, I save three hours by not having to commute and use the time to clean, cook, and exercise. VA is giving me many opportunities to thrive in my career.

"A career with VA does not mean that you only have **one path to excel**. I've met **successful employees** who've **moved up** (been promoted), **over** (moved to a new team or profession), **and across** (shifted to a new geographic location) **during their VA career.**"

A black and white portrait of Solomon Chang, a man with dark hair, smiling, wearing a suit and tie. The portrait is the background for the entire page.

SOLOMON CHANG

My Career at VA: Program Analyst

Focus Area: Solomon uses analytical and program management skills to help transform the way VA conducts human resources management in the 21st century.

— A FUTURE BUILT ON A SOLID
FINANCIAL FOOTING —

Solomon's Story

The benefits of working at VA include earning a competitive salary and having a balanced work-life schedule. VA is also highly vested in building up a strategic and consultative workforce that's prepared to take on 21st century challenges. If I decide to sharpen my professional skills at a local university or professional institute, VA offers ways to fulfill those individual endeavors with competitive subsidies.

"The best part about working at VA is having financial stability, even as I learn new skills to prepare me for the future."

A black and white portrait of Danita Brooks, a woman with dark, curly hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark top and a pearl necklace. The background is a light, neutral color.

DANITA BROOKS

My Career at VA: *Online Communications Manager*

Focus Area: *Danita leverages technology to develop and enhance the skills of VA's personnel and leaders.*

— THE FREEDOM TO INNOVATE —

Danita's Story

My work gives me a lot of flexibility, and I'm encouraged to be as innovative as possible. And that's essential given all that VA does; for instance, we offer 16,000 free on-line courses that enable employees to brush up on skills or learn new things! One of the best parts of my job is having the freedom to telework and to use my mobile devices to work from just about anywhere. I also use technology to train and engage colleagues across the United States. At VA, I'm doing what I love, every day.

"I started at VA in a 10-week internship. At the time, I said to myself, 'I am going to work as hard as I can because I want to stay here.'"

A black and white portrait of Gilda Cornejo, a woman with dark, curly hair, wearing glasses and a pearl necklace, smiling. The portrait is the background for the entire page.

GILDA CORNEJO

My Career at VA: Veteran Employment Services

Focus Area: Gilda assists in running VA's employment and other programs for Veterans, National Guard and Active Reserve members, and VA employees.

— SEEING THE MISSION IN ACTION —

Gilda's Story

At VA, I'm learning how government policies impact the health, education, housing, and well-being of Veterans. I also see first-hand how much VA means to the Veterans we serve. When I interned at a VA hospital in Columbia, Mo., I noticed that the Veterans talked about "their" hospital—they had such pride in that facility. I spoke to visiting Veterans who told me about all that they'd gone through during their service and about how VA was providing them care and helping them stay healthy. After seeing all those Veterans, I saw the profound simplicity of VA's mission: it's just to care.

"At VA, I'm able to intertwine my past experiences and channel them into something valuable for the Veterans we serve."

A black and white photograph of four professionals sitting on concrete steps in front of a modern glass building. From left to right: a woman in a dark suit, a man in a dark suit and glasses, a woman in a white sleeveless top and dark skirt, and a man in a dark suit. A blue text box is overlaid on the top right of the image.

Start ***Your*** Career at VA

Whether you want to become a physician or a nurse, an accountant or an attorney, a human resources specialist or a mental health counselor, VA has a place for you. Learn more about VA benefits and employment opportunities. For the career you want and the future you deserve, visit www.mycareeratva.va.gov/students.





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